

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A silica glass crucible ~~produced by a process~~
~~comprising~~

~~forming a silica glass powder layer on a surface of a silica glass crucible; and~~
~~heating and sintering the silica glass powder layer at a temperature less than the~~
~~crystallization temperature of the silica glass powder layer, wherein the~~

~~a silica glass powder layer is formed on the whole or a part of the surface of the~~
~~crucible, and wherein ;~~

the silica glass powder layer is porous;

~~the silica glass powder layer is crystallized to reinforce the silica glass crucible by~~
~~heating under the high temperature at the melting of the silicon raw material being charged~~
~~into the crucible~~ formed from a silica powder;

more than 20 weight % of the silica powder consists of silica particles each having a
particle size of less than 10 μm ; and

20 weight % or less of the silica powder consists of silica particles each having a
particle size in a range of from 10 μm to 150 μm .

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28,
wherein

the silica glass crucible has an inside surface and an outside surface; and

the silica glass powder layer is formed in a ring configuration on the outside surface
of the silica glass crucible

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28,
wherein

the silica glass crucible has an inside surface and an outside surface; and

the silica glass powder layer is formed in a ring configuration on the inside surface of
the silica glass crucible.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (New): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28, wherein the silica
glass powder layer is amorphous.

Claim 34 (New): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 33, wherein the
crucible is amorphous.